

March 13, 2015

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GREENWICH

Written Testimony in Support of:
S.B. No 1055 (Raised) AN ACT CONCERNING GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS
For Joint Committee on Education Public Hearing, March 11, 2015

Dear Legislators:

I am an elected Board of Education official in Greenwich, CT. I am also the parent of a son in the **state's longest-running and oldest** advanced learning program in Connecticut public schools.

It is vital that the state of Connecticut establish accountability for the appropriate education of students who are able to learn above grade level. We need a dedicated staff member in the State Department of Education as a coordinator and resource for school district across the state that cannot afford to run their own programs and hire their own staff. It is an embarrassment that Connecticut is one of only a handful of states without attention to the needs of learners at one end of the spectrum.

The Bill does not cost taxpayers additional money because it seeks to reallocate resources.

Talented and Gifted Education is a need long recognized by educational institutions such as Johns Hopkins University. Research done in this field has produced new models that benefit ALL students because they are effective at personalizing learning. My son attended programs in Johns Hopkins University to master coursework that allowed him to place out of introductory level high school courses. In this way, public high school can serve the needs of all learners -- as long as external resources are available to advanced learners in our public schools.

The State Department of Education must ensure all learners are achieving their potential. Please vote in favor of SB 1055.

Thank you,

Jennifer Dayton